

E-Tools for Brownfields

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The Center for Hazardous Substance Research at Kansas State University is showcasing three electronic/Web-based tools suitable for use with Brownfields redevelopment:

1. Brownfields Site Inventory Database Manager

This is a software tool developed in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 8 for Tribal Response Grant recipients. The tool is a customized Microsoft Access database that can be integrated with Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping systems to meet survey and inventory, public record, cleanup plan, oversight and enforcement, and grant reporting requirements. To date, over 40 copies of the software have been distributed on CD to interested tribal and municipal officials.

2. GIS Inventory of Potential Redevelopment Sites

In collaboration with the City of Des Moines, Office of Economic Development, a Web-based inventory of environmental and other information for properties with redevelopment potential was developed. The Web site displays a combination of static and dynamic data from maps, text documents, and photographic images, according to user preference. The purpose of the Web site is to encourage relationships between the City of Des Moines, potential developers, and the community.

3. Environmental Knowledge and Assessment Tool (EKAT)

The EKAT is a Web-based tool used to identify, research, and evaluate environmental and safety-related issues. It contains many useful tools, including the capability to screen lists of chemicals or materials for potential environmental, safety, and health issues by comparing them with regulatory requirements and other pertinent lists. The EKAT will be a link within Site Management Approaches and Redevelopment Tools (SMARTe), a decision support tool for Brownfield revitalization stakeholders.

These tools will be helpful to several organizations including local governments, tribes, states, and nonprofit organizations.